A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, November 29. 1711.

WHEN they that Diſpute aſſume to themſelves all the Learning and all the Senſe, I think they ought to aſſume ſome Juſtice and regard to Truth —— But it is impoſſible for ſome People to keep their Temper when they are pinch'd in Argument; which want of Temper in them, ſhall be far from moving me to the ſame Error.

It is my good hap to have a Foundation of Truth to go upon, and I cannot wonder that it moves any one to Indecencies, when they can no otherwiſe oppoſe it; according to the Poet whom I often quote on this Occaſion.

——*That Diſputants when Reaſon fail,*
Have one ſure Refuge left, and that's to rail.

My Oppoſer is angry with me for his being unhappily taken Contradicting himſelf a little, as to his Celebrated *Atlas Hiſtorique*, who he quotes to prove, That *Hungaria* can maintain but 30000 Men, yet afterwards Printing, That the preſent Emperor will keep 50000 Men conſtantly there in Time of Peace, and puts this off with ſaying, *publick Accounts muſt be given as they are ſent*, or to that Effect: So once an Author of publick News anſwer'd me formerly, *when I caught him Writing Nonſenſe*, That

That he only Translated it — As if a Foreign Author Writing *French* Nonsense, justifies our Translating it into *English* Nonsense: But after all, I Tax this Gentleman with nothing; his News is right, the Emperor does resolve to have 50000 Men Maintain'd constantly in *Hungaria*, and never had less — And as I hinted in a former Paper, by an Establishment, which I had a sight of for the Kingdom of *Hungaria*, after the late Accommodation with the *Malecontents*, that Kingdom actually pays 70000 Men, I cannot say positively that this was Authentick, but I believe it was——And this was besides 8000 in *Transylvania* and all *Croatia*——And that 20000 of these Troops will be brought down now to act against *France*——But why should it make my Opposer Angry, that I have prov'd *Atlas Historique* to be guilty of a Mistake, any more than I ought to be Angry that he Questions whether I can read the Language which it is written in, or no, when we see the Title is *French*.

I think it no Loss to me, to say I have not seen this Celebrated Author, who writes so much and knows so little, as to say, That *Hungaria* can raise but 50000 Men, nor does its being Dedicated to the Duke of *Marlborough*, add any Thing in this point; his Grace knows the Strength of *Hungaria* so well, that he will not think the better of the Author, for Dedicating any Thing to him so Ridiculous.

And why should this put any Man out of Temper, or Value himself upon another Man's Ignorance, supposing it were true? ——Then my Opposer makes himself merry with me, that I stand in need of a Logician to mend my Arguments, and a Grammarian to mend my *Latin*——. I wish this Mirth may calm his Temper, and I will not make myself amends upon him, by telling him, that he can mend neither for me; that I am Master of as many Languages as himself, and may have forgot as much Latin as some Men have learn't; because I have no Mind to Quarrel, or put any Man into a Ferment; and besides, What's all this to the purpose in Hand? —— This, I hope, he may bear from me — Which is my next Complaint to him, that altho' he bespoke Disputing fairly, in one of his Papers, he has not acted fairly with me, in Quoting a Clause out of my own *Review*, which was quoted by some-body else, and fully answer'd by me, in the *Review* of the 13*th* of *October* N° 78; had he not been Partial in his search, he might have found out the the Answer as well as the other, where his seeming, or pretended Contradiction is fairly reconcil'd; now mark the Consequence.

Thus is it in all such People, who will not do an Adversary Justice; they are brought to defend him, by their very endeavour to accuse him —— He has quoted the *Review* of *September* the 1*st*. wherein I declare myself against giving up *Spain* to the House of *Bourbonne* —— And where I say, 'tis all one with giving *Ireland* to them —— I thank him for the Quotation, and I stand by every Word of it; but pray let him Answer me this Question then, *viz.* With what Justice! With what Satisfaction to his Conscience! With what Honesty can he, or any Man, charge me with Writing to give *Spain* to the *French*? How can he in the same Breath say, as he does in the same Paper, That I have putt the Greatness of the House of *Bourbonne* out of my Head, when by his own Quotation he proves I have said, we may as well give *Ireland* to them, and the Ministry must be Distracted if they do so?——Ought you not, Sir, to have own'd that I declar'd thus, before I began against giving *Spain* to the House of *Bourbonne*?

Now I give him a fair, yet just Challenge, let him shew me one Word, if he can, in the *Review*, or in any other Book I ever wrote, wherein I Argue for giving the *Spanish* Monarchy, which is what must be there meant by *Spain*, to the House of *Bourbonne* —— If he cannot do this—then his Quotation is against himself —— And I give the Quotation back upon him, to prove, that I am not Writing to support *French* Exorbitance, but against Erecting blindly *Austrian* Exorbitance in the Room of it, to

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the destroying the *Protestant Interest*, and to the Assisting a Popish Enemy, to fight against GOD and against his Church, in whose Blood they have so often already dip'd their Barbarous Hands.

Nay, I'll go farther with him than this; I have not in any Thing he can shew me, either in the *Review*, or any other Book or Paper, descended to any particular of a *Partition* at all, or said I am for giving this or that, or any part of the *Spanish* Monarchy to the House of *Bourbonne*; I have said, *God forbid I should do so*, but never offer'd a Word towards it; with how much Justice then I am Treated in this, I leave to any one to judge.

After all then, as to reconciling the *Review* of the 1*st*. of *September*, there is not the least difficulty in it——— And I refer him to the *Review* of the 13*th* of *October*, N. 78, where I have answer'd it before.

The Case is in short, thus ——— I said *Sept.* 1. *That to give* Spain *to the House of* Bourbonne, *would be to Ruin* Europe; *that we might as well give away* Ireland; *that the Ministry could not, without Distraction, entertain such a Thought*, and the like; there it stands, both in my *Review*, and as my Opposer has quoted it, I am far from being asham'd of it— And so I say now——— And all the difference is, that I spoke of *Spain* there, as I do now *of the whole Spanish Monarchy* ——— All I said before leads to it, nor can it be thought there to mean any Thing else; all I have been upon ever since, implies it; all I have said upon the Subject before, implies it; nor can it, without the most unfair and dishoneſt Misconstruction, be call'd any Thing else.

What else am I Arguing for? What else can I mean by a *Partition*, if I was not against giving it all to *France*? I am no more for giving it all to *France*, than I am for giving it all to the *Emperor*; nor am I one jot more for giving it all to the Emperor than to *France*; yet am I not for giving it all from the Emperor neither ——— The Force of these Things, lies in Debating the just Proportion of Things, and how every Thing may be so stated, as that the General Peace may be secur'd, every Branch being a Security to one another, that there may be a *Partition* of Interests as well as of Dominions, and that it may be so order'd, if possible, that whoever has that particular part of *Old Spain*, may be made Depending by his Interest and Commerce, upon the Confederates, and I dare undertake to prove, this may be done so, that whoever has *Old Spain*, shall never be Dependent upon *France*.

Either this is Sense, or it is not; either it is *English*, or it is not; let my Opposer Correct the Logick, or the Grammar of this, if he can; let his *Atlas Historique*, or all his Historians, Contradict it if they can; I think this is wrangling, not Disputing, indeed, if any Thing be so; to quote Things already Answer'd in Print, he ought rather to have said the Answer was Insufficient: I find all my Opposers under a mighty struggle to bring me in, if they can, Arguing in behalf of the *French* Interest; for my part, I am gratify'd in their Attempt to the utmost, tho' not the least Sensible of their ill Will, because they run so readily a-ground, and confute themselves——— I am declar'd against *Austrian Greatness*, lessen that, or forbear making it *Exorbitant*, and I am answer'd; but to tell me you will join the *Spanish* Monarchy to it, and yet that shall not make it Exorbitant, is saying nothing at all, unless it be made out; when this is Secur'd against, and then you find the *Review* Arguing for *French Greatness*; then you may have something to say, and till then, I contemn the Folly of the rest.

But I am now attack'd with a New Argument, and a New Opposer, who begins with Banter and Insult, and deriding, bids me give an Account of the Naval Power of *France*, and of the House of *Austria*.

I see the meaning of this also, and shall Answer it directly.

I know perhaps as well as my Opposer, that the Emperor has no Naval Power at all; nor, by the Way, do I desire he should ever have any, and therefore am against giving *Spain* to him; and I know as well

well ſtill, that the Naval Power of *Spain* is not ſo great as much to be fear'd by us or the Confederates, if United, if he had it; but let us ſee how ſimply the Oppoſers of this Argument improve this; becauſe the Emperor has no Naval Strength, therefore the Conjunction of *Spain* can be of no uſe to him, or can no Way aſſiſt to make him Formidable to the *Proteſtant Intereſt* in *Germany*——— This is like the reſt of the Logick with which my Learned Antagoniſts, who boaſt of their Grammar, and Correct me ſo Magiſterially, Confute me.

Let ſuch People tell me how did *Ferdinand* II. fill the *Palatinate* with *Spaniſh* Troops againſt the *Proteſtants*? He had no Fleet, nor was he King of *Spain* —— And what, if after all, it were impoſſible, that one *Spaniſh Tertia* of Foot could be Tranſported to his Aſſiſtance, or one Squadron of Horſe— The Strength of the *Spaniſh* Militia is not the Caſe now, they do not bear their uſual Figure in the Field, an Argument our Antagoniſts never yet thought of: But the Nature of the War is now alter'd, 'tis the longeſt Purſe Conquers the longeſt Sword; the Emperor when Maſter of the Mines of *Peru*, Will he want a Fleet to bring Home the Silver from *Cadiz* to *Italy*? Will not all the Banks and Exchanges in *Europe* ſupply it, in ſpight of all the Prohibitions in the Univerſe? —— Have I not prov'd, that the *Exchange* of *London* has ſupply'd the Armies of *France*, and ſhall again, whenever the King of *France* pleaſes? —And O unſufferable Ignorance!— Does the Emperor want a Fleet to oppreſs the *Proteſtants* of *Germany*? We are not talking of his Oppreſſing Us *England* or Us *Holland*, but the Proteſtants in *Germany*— And this is an Article that not a Head among us akes for, nor do we think it worth our Notice——— But the Time is coming when you will be of another Mind, unleſs God Infatuates you all to your own Deſtruction.

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